

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned on June 30, 2006.

Claims 2-19 and 21-57 were pending, with claims 1 and 20 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claim 39 (which depended from previously canceled claim 20) has been canceled, and claims 4, 23, 26-28 and 36 have been amended to correct informalities therein and/or clarify the claimed invention, without narrowing a scope of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 2-19, 21-38 and 40-57 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 4 and 23 being in independent form.

Claims 2-19 and 21-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0008258 A1 (Suzuki et al.).

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 4 and 23 as amended are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to improved approaches for image processing when image size is changed (for example, in order to be suitable for an output medium). Such an image size may be, for example, a magnification or reduction of the image. Depending on the particular size change, additional processing (some examples of which are discussed in the application at pages 2-10), which may involve a combination of techniques, may be necessary.

Applicant devised improvements wherein a sharing ratio in the processing between first and second processing ways is adjusted so that the entire process of a predetermined image size-change processing is completed within a given time duration, if a processing time for performing the entire processing of the image size-change processing utilizing a first processing way but not

a second processing way exceeds the given time duration. Each of independent claims 4 and 23 has been amended to more clearly address these features, in addition to additional features already in the claims. As discussed in more detail in the application (see, for example, page 13, lines 10-20, and page 14, line 22 through page 15, line 12), the combination of processing ways is applied according to a sharing ratio, if applying the first processing way for the entire process will consume more than the allowed time.

Suzuki, as understood by Applicant, proposed techniques for converting color image resolution from relatively low-resolution to relatively high-resolution. The techniques proposed by Suzuki include inputting image data pixel-by-pixel, and for each pixel, categorizing the pixel as belonging to one of four types of images and then applying a corresponding one of four pixel multiplying methods (1-4) to the pixel (in step S17 of Suzuki).

Suzuki simply does not disclose or suggest that a first processing way and a second processing way share processing resources according to a sharing ratio, and the sharing ratio in the processing between first and second processing ways is adjusted so that the entire process of a predetermined image size-change processing is completed within a given time duration, if a processing time for performing the entire processing of the image size-change processing utilizing a first processing way but not a second processing way exceeds the given time duration, as provided by the claimed invention of independent claims 4 and 23 of the present application.

Further, as noted in the March 6, 2006 Office Action, the Suzuki application (Serial No. 10/914,136) and the present application are commonly-owned. Therefore, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Suzuki would not preclude patentability under 35 U.S.C. §103 of the claims of the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 4 and 23, and the

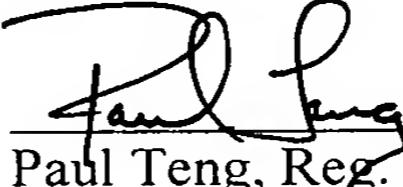
claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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